

Tailgate/Toolbox Topics



TT-4: Dec 2000

Division of Occupational Safety and Health
California Department of Industrial Relations
P.O. Box 420603, San Francisco, CA 94142-0603

Roofing Safety: Slips and Falls

Of all the accidents associated with roofing, falls are not only the most common, they are also likely to cause the most serious injuries. About 30 percent of injuries to roofers are sustained as a result of falls or slips.

Section 1730 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations pertains to roofing operations. When these regulations are followed, many falls and resulting injuries are avoided.

This tailgate/toolbox topic summarizes Section 1730. Refer to the safety order itself for exact wording and specific requirements.

Single-Unit roof coverings – Slopes 0:12 – 4:12

This part of Section 1730 applies to roofs with a height more than 20 feet, and when using backward-pulling machinery, such as felt-layers, regardless of height.

- ♦ Install flagged warning lines, with a minimum tensile strength of 500 pounds, 34 to 35 inches from the roof surface to warn workers of the roof edge.
- ♦ When possible, place headers consisting of sheets of roofing or other materials parallel to the roof edge.
- ♦ Place warning lines and headers no closer than 5 feet from the roof edge.

Connect materials handling and storage areas to the work area with a clear access path formed by two warning lines.

Single-Unit Roof Coverings

On roofs higher than 20 feet, protect workers by one or more of the following: parapets 24 inches or higher, safety belts and lines, catch platforms, scaffold platform, eave barriers, standard toeboards and railings. Do not use backward-pulling equipment.

Multiple-Unit Roof Coverings – Slopes 0:12 – 5:12

Use a roof jack system or a 24-inche-high parapet on roofs more than 20 feet high.

Multiple-Unit Roof Coverings – Slopes Greater than 5:12

On roofs more than 20 feet high, use one or more of the following: parapets 24 inches or higher, safety belts and lines, catch platforms, scaffold platforms, eave barriers, roof jacks.

Other Safe Work Practices

- ♦ Keep your work area free of trash and equipment.
- ♦ Store materials neatly and away from roof edges.
- ♦ Cover or barricade skylights and other roof openings.

Discussion Questions

- What is the slope of the roof you are working on?
- Are the protections required by law present?
- What else can be done at this worksite to make your work safe?

Resources:

Cal/OSHA Guide for the Construction Industry – Contact a Cal/OSHA District Office for copies.

Health & Safety Guide for the Commercial Roofing Industry – Booklet No. 78-194 from:

NIOSH
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226